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Levett

of Normanton and Melton.

THOMAS LEVET

OF EXETER AND HAMPTON

Reprinted from the

NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER;

WITH

Notes on the English and American Families of

LEVETT AND LEAVITT

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BY

VICTOR C. SANBORN

KENILWORTH, ILLINOIS

JANUARY

1913

These notes concern an early New England settler, hitherto untraced. Thomas Levet was perhaps born at Melton, near Doncaster in Yorkshire. This neighborhood is distinguished by its nearness to Austerfield and Scrooby, the first English gathering places of the Mayflower Pilgrims. His early life may have been spent with an uncle, Ralph Levett of Grainsby in Lincolnshire, near Willoughby, the birthplace of the romantic Captain John Smith, that Paladin of early New England explorers. Unquestionably Thomas Levet came under the influence of John Wheelwright and Anne Hutchinson, and perhaps of Sir Harry Vane and John Cotton, four types of a Puritanism broader than that of Winthrop's colony.

Thus the life of Thomas Levet, in itself unimportant, was interwoven with the world-movements of the seventeenth century. It is to be hoped that some future historian will write in detail the lives of all the members of Wheelwright's brave Combination, and will clear up many passages at present doubtful.

V. C. S.

1537527

THE MELTON REGISTERS

The unfailing kindness of Canon Foster has furnished the following complete record of Levet entries in the Parish Register of Melton-on-the-Hill from 1538 to 1700. This record does not alter the conclusions arrived at in my pamphlet, but amplifies and corrects the Levett pedigree in some respects. V. C. S.

1539. Elizabeth Levet (daughter of William Levet) was baptized ye xxixth day of Julie.
1540. Nicholas Levet (sonne of Wm Levet) married Anne Westbee (daughter of Rafe Westbee of Ranfield) the thirde day of Octob.
1556. Richarde Colbrande of ye parishe of Wathe maried Jane Levett ye seven & twentieth day of Januarie.
1557. Margaret Levett (daughter of William Levett) was buried ye seconde day of December.
1570. (12 Elizabeth) Rafe Levet (somne of Nicholas Levet) maried at Barmbrughe Elizabeth West (daughter of George West Esquier) the foure & twentieth day of October.
1571. (13 Elizabeth) Francis Levet (Sonne of Rafe Levet) was baptized & buried ye fyve & twentieth day of August.
1572. Francis Hallom maried Anne Levet ye nyne & twentieth day of Julie.
1572. (14 Elizabeth) Thomas Levet (sonne of Rafe Levet) was baptized ye last day of August.
1574. (16 Elizabeth) William Levet (sonne of Rafe Levet) was baptized ye foure & twentieth day of October.
1576. (18 Elizabeth) Robert Levet (sonne of Rafe Levet) was baptized ye seventh day of October.
1577. (19 Elizabeth) Wm Levet father of Nich: Levet was buried at Sprodburgh the xxixth of Januarie.
1579. (21 Elizabeth) Catherine Levet (daughter of Rafe Levet) was baptized ye two & twentieth day of Marche.
1581. (23 Elizabeth) Gertrude Levet (daughter of Rafe Levet) was baptized ye foure & twentieth day of Januarie.
1582. (24 Elizabeth) Rafe Levet (son & heire of Nicholas Levet) was buried ye fourthe day of Januarie.
1583. (25 Elizabeth) John Morley married Elizabeth Levet Widowe (late wife of Rafe Levet) ye second day of Aprill.
1585. (27 Elizabeth) Gertrude Levet (daughter of Rafe Levet) was buried ye twelfthe day of Aprill.
1587. (29 Elizabeth) Thomas Levet (somne & heire of Rafe Levet) maried at Laughton in le Morthinge Elizabeth Myrfyn (daughter of Robert Myrfyn) ye seconde day of Julie.
1590. (32 Elizabeth) Elizabeth Morley (wife of John Morley) was buried ye secounde day of August.
1595. (36 Elizabeth) Thomas Levet (son of Thomas Levet) was borne the three & twentieth day of Julie & baptized ye eight & twentieth of ye same monethe.
1597. (39 Elizabeth) Marie Levet (daughter of Thomas Levet) was borne the fourthe day of Januarie & baptized ye sixth day of same monethe.
1597. Tho: Levet signs as churchwarden.
1598. (40 Elizabeth) Nicholas Levet sonne & heir of Wm Levet was buried at Rotherham ye eight of May. (This entry has been inserted after the other entries were written)
1600. Rafe Levett (sonne of Thomas Levett) was baptized ye thirde day of June.

1602. Marie Levet (daughter of Thomas Levet) was buried ye two & twentieth day of Septemb'.
1604. John Levet sonne of Thomas Levet gent was baptized ye xxvth daie of Marche.
1607. Jane Levitt daughter Tho. Levit gent was baptezed ye ixth daie of August.
1610. Peter Levet Sonne of Thomas Levet gent. was baptized ye second daie of Julie.
1622/3. Thomas Levett gentma elder was buryed the 17 day of Februarye 17.
1627. Andrewe Goodhand and Jone Levitt was maryed the 13 day of January.
1632. Jane the wif of Andrew Goodhand gentlma was buryed the 31 day of December. (There are other Goodhand entries)
1639. Thomas the sonne of Mr. Doctor Levett was baptized the eighteenth day of July & borne ye 2d day of ye same July.
1640. John Levett Doct of Lawes married Mary Mote daughter of Emanuell Mote gent' the 26th of ffebruary 1635 and was married at Plumtree in Nottinghamshire.

Anne Levett daughter of Docte John Levett borne at Yorke the 28th of September 1637 & baptized the 4th of October followinge

Mary Levet daughter of Docter John Levet baptized the ffourteenth of Janrye.

1742. John ye sonne of John Levit bapt: the 28th of July

Mris. Elizabeth Levitt buried ye 11th of November.

1643. Elizabeth ye daughter of Dr. John Levitt baptized July 19th.
1644. William Leavet son of John Leavet Baptized October ye 6.
1645. Alice the daughter of John Leavet Baptized Septemer the 26.
1646. Dorythy the doughter of John Levitt Baptized August ye 26.
1649. Sarah daughter of Dr. John Levit baptized June 9th

THOMAS LEVET OF EXETER AND HAMPTON

A SURPRISING fact about the early settlers of New England is that so few records were kept of their English homes and ancestry. Where no identifying record has survived three centuries of time, a connection can often be traced through neighbors and friends in the first twenty years of sojourn here. But sometimes an early immigrant cannot thus be linked with a group. Then, unless the family name be uncommon, the search for English ancestry is blind indeed.

The name of Levet is not uncommon, and there is some doubt whether a connection exists between Thomas Levet of Exeter and Hampton and any group of early New England settlers. Thomas Levet was born in 1616, as appears from his death record and from a deposition of his, made in 1676 in the case of Drake *v.* Colcord (Mass. Ct. Assts., File No. 1566). He was thus born in the same year as William Wentworth, Christopher Lawson, and Edward Rishworth. He is first found among the signers of John Wheelwright's Exeter Combination of 1639, where his name appears between those of James Wall and Edmund Littlefield. For we must regretfully abandon belief in the Wheelwright Deed of 1629, where the name of "Thomas Levitt" appears as a grantee, with Wheelwright, Augustin Storre his brother-in-law, Thomas Wight, and William Wentworth. This fraudulent deed was brought forward in 1707 to support the anti-Masonian claims, but its only genealogical use is to connect the grantees, between whom a relationship was doubtless at that early date known to exist.

In tracing the English ancestry of our Thomas Levet, three clues present themselves: (1) The tradition connecting him with Wheelwright, the Hutchinsons, and Wentworth. (Wentworth Genealogy, vol. 1, p. 76.) (2) What is known of other early Levets in New England. (3) The affidavit of Abraham and Nathaniel Drake in 1691, that Colchester, co. Essex, was the English home of Levet's wife and, perhaps, of Levet himself. (REGISTER, vol. 21, p. 316.)

The Wheelwright-Hutchinson tradition points to Lincolnshire, since that county furnished the entire Wheelwright connection. Lincolnshire is singularly lacking in Levets, though a few references to the name are found. The will of John Hutchinson in 1644 mentions his "sister Levitt," and Ralph Levet was a witness (REGISTER, vol. 20, pp. 362–363). This led Col. Chester and Hon. John Wentworth to believe that our Thomas was a son of this Ralph Levet. But Canon Maddison found in the Bilsby transcript the marriage of "Ralfe Levit and Anne Hutchinson" on 25 Jan. 1631/2. Doubtless this Ralph Levet was rector of Grainsby, Lincolnshire, in 1635, and belonged to the Melton line, as we shall see. He was the father of Francis Levet, rector of Little Carlton, mentioned in the next paragraph. But he could hardly have been the father of our Thomas Levet, who was born in 1616.

In Suffolk Deeds, book 10, fo. 215, is a deed from John Wheelwright, 22 Oct. 1677, conveying to Richard Crispe all his messuage in Mawthorp, parish of Willoughby, Lincs, and lands in Burnethorpe and Hog-

strope, which were in the tenure of John Banister, and were purchased of Francis Levet, gent., of North Willingham, Lincs. This seemed a distinct clue, but the registers of North Willingham contain no Levet entries. Francis Levet, undoubtedly the son of Ralph of Grainsby, was rector of Little Carlton, Lincs, from 1662 to 1711. This was a Hutchinson and Thorndike parish. (REGISTER, vol. 51, pp. 120 *et seq.*) The transcripts of Great and Little Carlton have been searched, and from 1662 to 1710 those for Little Carlton are signed "Fran: Levet, rector." They show that "Francis Levett, Clerke, and Elizabeth Marris" were married 10 Dec. 1662. Their children were:

i. ELIZABETH, bapt. at Great Carlton 15 Dec. 1663.
ii. ANNE, bapt. at Little Carlton 11 Aug. 1667.
iii. RALPH, bapt. at Little Carlton 18 Feb. 1669; bur. 10 May 1674.
iv. MARY, bapt. at Little Carlton 9 Mar. 1670/1; m. at Great Carlton 22 Feb. 1693/4 RICHARD OGLE.
v. THOMAS, bapt. at Little Carlton 1 May 1673; bur. 5 May 1673.
vi. RICHARD, bapt. at Little Carlton 14 Feb. 1673/4; bur. 16 Feb. 1673/4

On 18 Feb. 1673/4 Elizabeth, wife of Francis Levet, was buried; and 3 July 1711 "Mr. Francis Levett, Rect^{r}," was buried. The will of Francis Levet is filed at Lincoln (vol. for 1711, fo. 60), and in it he leaves bequests to his three sons-in-law, Michael Johnson, William Eldinor, and John Harrison, and to his Johnson and Eldinor grandchildren. The will is sealed with the arms of the Melton Levetts.

A few scattered notes exist of other Lincolnshire Levets. The will of Robert Levitt of Lincoln in 1565 gives nothing of value, unless the bequest to Isabella Symkinson connects this Levitt with the Doncaster Simpkinsons. James Levit was ordained deacon by Thomas Cooper, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1583. At Foston and Allington in southern Lincolnshire was a family of Lovetts, which can be traced for a generation or two, but this gives no apparent clue.

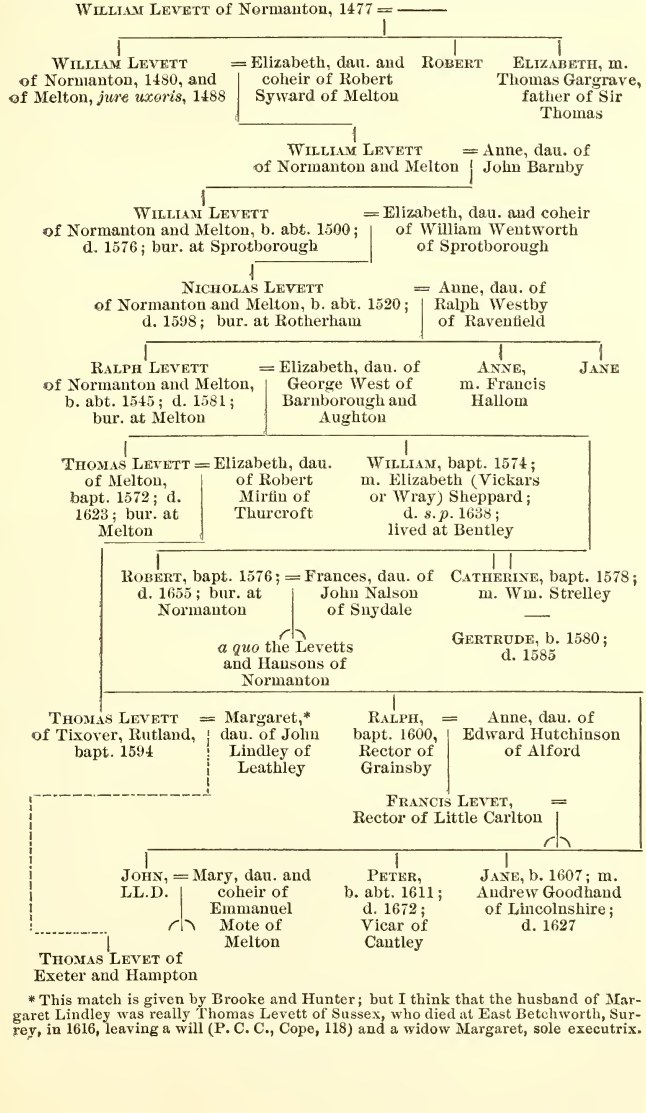
William Wentworth of Exeter came from Lincolnshire, but was descended from the Yorkshire line. Near their ancestral home lived a Yorkshire family of Levetts, belonging to the lesser landed gentry, seated at Normanton for some generations, and acquiring in the fifteenth century a fair estate, though not the manor, at High Melton. These Normanton and Melton Levetts intermarried with the Wentworths. Their pedigree* appeared in the Visitation of Yorkshire of 1612, and is printed in Hunter's Deanery of Doncaster. It has been amplified by a descendant, Mr. Milner-Gibson-Cullum, in 3 *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, vol. 1,† and is in part as follows:

* It would seem possible to construct a pedigree of the Normanton and Melton Levetts extending two centuries farther back than the pedigree printed herein. Thus we find in 1249 a Hamond de Lyvet. In 1272–1307 lived a Nicholas de Lyvet, who held from John de Vesci the manor of Hooton, later Hooton-Levet, as well as fees in Wickersley and Pickburn; he is mentioned in Kirkby's Quest. In 1327 we find a William Levet of Hooton-Levet, who married Constantia, daughter of Roger de Wickersley and granddaughter of Richard fitz Turgis, who with John de Busli founded the Cistercian Abbey of Roche. In 1377 John Levet, son and heir of William Levet, sold to Richard Barry of London all his ancestral rights in Roche Abbey. In 1392 lived William Levet of Tylse, who was a feoffee of Thomas de Barley. In 1420 William Levet and Elizabeth his wife lived in Hooton-Levet. These Levets sold Hooton-Levet to the Cliffords, and perhaps removed to Normanton, where we find a William Levet who was admitted in 1447 to be a tenant of the prior of St. John of Jerusalem. He it is who heads the pedigree of the Normanton and Melton Levetts.

† Many records also of this family, including (in a somewhat different form) some, but not all, of the abstracts given below on pp. 8–9, have been communicated to the same volume by Mr. Milner-Gibson-Cullum.

LEVETT OF NORMANTON AND MELTON, YORKSHIRE

ARMS.—Sable, a fess battled on both sides between three leopards' heads erased argent.



* This match is given by Brooke and Hunter; but I think that the husband of Margaret Lindley was really Thomas Levett of Sussex, who died at East Betchworth, Surrey, in 1616, leaving a will (P. C. C., Cope, 118) and a widow Margaret, sole executrix.

The last Levetts living at Melton were the children of the Thomas Levett who died in 1623. An abstract of his will follows, together with the answer of his son John to a Chancery bill, showing what became of the Melton lands.

The Will of THOMAS LEVETT of High Melton, gent., 7 October 1622. I give to my wife Elizabeth £40, over and above her portion of my goods. To Thomas Levett my son and heir apparent all glass and seeling in or about my house at Melton. To Ralph Levitt my second son £20, to be paid within one month after he shall commence Maister of Arts in one of the Universities of Cambridge or Oxford. And whereas I have a spetiall desire to have my two younger sons, John Levett and Peter Levett, to be educated and brought up at their books, whereby they be furnished with knowledge and learning to become profitable members in God's Church or the commonwealth of this land; I do hereby pray and desire my said wife, my eldest son Thomas, and my second son Ralfe to be aiding and assisting to the said John and Peter therein. And therefore, rather to allure them to their books and to assist them in their studie, I do bequeath to the said John Levett £20, to be paid to him w^th^in one month after he shall take the degree of Maister of Arts in Cambridge or Oxford. [Same bequest to Peter Levett.] To my daughter Jaine Levett £40, over and besides her portion. The bequests to my three younger sons to be raised out of lands in Cadeby purchased of Richard Waterhouse. If this devise be insufficient in law, then I do require my eldest son to consider how chargeable his own education hath been to me and how much to the hindrance of his younger brethren's preferment, and therefore I do pray him to give way to this devise. My wife to be executrix. My brethren Robert Mirfin of Thurcroft and William Levett of Bentley to be supravisors. To my good friend Henry Saxton,* clerke, 10s., in thankful remembrance of God's blessing by him as a secondary cause in the indoctrinating of my children. Proved 1 May 1623. (York Wills, vol. 37, fo. 234.)

WHITAKER *v.* FITZWILLIAMS, LEVETT *et al.*, bill dated 26 October 1653: Thomas Whitaker, exr. will of John Whitaker, late of Melton-on-the-Hill, complains that John Levett, Dr. of Lawes, being seized of a capital messuage there, did on May 10, 1638, lease the same to the said John Whitaker for 21 years at £61 pr. ann. The said John Whitakers did continue tenant and much improved sd. farme and continued to pay his rent until he understood that the said Dr. Levett had conveyed the reversion thereof to Richard Berry, Dr. in Phisicke, since decd., after wch time he did with the consent of Dr. Levett pay the rent to Dr. Berry. Sd. John Whitakers made his will and appointed your orator and John Whitacers his son exrs. and demised to your orator sd. farme and your orator pd. rent to Dr. Berry. Dr. Berry, dying about June, 1651, demised sd. farme to John Fountaine, Esq^e^ † and since then your orator has pd. rent to sd. Fountaine, saving that sometimes by consent of Dr. Levett, Dr. Berry, and Fountaine your orator and his father pd. to Thomas Fitzwilliams of Doncaster £16 pr. ann., the interest on £200, lent on some small pt. of the farme by sd. Fitzwilliams. And after the death of his sd. father, your orator being an illiterate person brought up only to husbandry, the sd. Fitzwilliams, being an attorney and often Under Sheriff for the County of York, repaired to your orator and required him to seale some writings, which he said were only to secure the payment of sd. interest; but now he pretendeth they are bonds wh. he threatens to put in suit. The sd. Fitzwilliams did combine with the said Dr. Levett (who married Mary, one of the daughters and coheires of Emmanuel Mote decd.) and with Anne and Dorothy Mote, two other daughters of sd. Emmanuel Mote, so that Feb. 13, 1651, a bill was drawn by which the said Anne and Dorothy Mote claimed that the sd. Emmanuel Mote was seized in fee of the manor of Melton and of this farme; and upon the marriage of the sd. Mary to Dr. Levett, and his agreement to pay £500 to sd. Anne and Dorothy, the premises were settled on the sd. Dr. Levett; but the sd Anne and Dorothy lately discovered that on July 30, 1635, their father conveyed the premises to sd. Fitzwilliams for £200. Prays writ of subpœna commanding defts. to appear and set forth the truth, etc.

* Henry Saxton was vicar of Conisbrough from 1615 to 1665 and is buried in Conisbrough church.

† John Fountayne of Melton married Elizabeth, daughter of Major John Monkton and a grand-niece of Dr. Richard Berry.

Answer of John Levet, Dr. of Lawes, one of the defendants, 9 February 1653/4: Defendant did at the time mentioned in the Bill believe that he was seized of the capital messuage and lands expressed in the Bill as in fee; for he did not know that Mr. Emmanuel Mote had mtgd. any part of them to the defendant Mr. Thomas Fitzwilliams; and deft. believeth that John Whittakers, compts.' father, was privy to the mortgage. The deft. leased said lands, etc., to the said John Whittakers, who continued as such tenant until such time as Doctor Berrie got his interest in it. The deft. upon trust and agreement with the said Dr. Berrie (then a great professor of his love to the Levets for Mr. Thomas Levet's sake, to whom he did acknowledge himself behoulden for the greater part of his fortunes) did make a conveyance of his manors and lands in Melton (a part being the said messuage and lands) with other lands in Cadeby, Wildethorpe, and Bentley, unto the said Dr. Berrie for the securing of what money he had lent the deft. or his brother Thomas Levet, which loans were about £3300. And for the purchase of the said lands (in Melton only) deft. had £10,000 proffered him by Arthur Ingram the elder, as also by Sir John Melton, and indeed had sold them to the latter, but afterwards because he could not get his moneys in the sd. Sir John desisted from perfecting the purchase. After, the said Dr. Berry (contrary to the trust reposed in him) enrolled the conveyance and endeavored to eject deft., etc., and John Fountayne has ejected the Deft. (Chancery Proceedings, 1649–1714, Bundle 17, Bridges.)

Thomas Levett, the eldest son and heir of Melton, matriculated at Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1610, and proceeded B.A. 1612/13. In 1621 he was entered as a barrister at Lincoln's Inn, and he was still of Lincoln's Inn in 1626. According to Foster's Alumni Oxonienses he was B.C.L. of Orleans University, 1626.

The Calendars of State Papers (Domestic), James I, vol. 11, p. 438, contain an interesting letter from Matthew Dodsworth to Dr. More, dated 3 Jan. 1624/5. Matthew Dodsworth was chancellor to the Puritan Archbishop Toby Mathew of York, and was father of Roger Dodsworth the antiquary. Perhaps Dr. More was Robert More, Puritan vicar of Guisley, whose daughter married Capt. Christopher Levett. The letter states that Dodsworth is willing to accede to Dr. More's wish "that Thomas Levett, student of Civil Law, may share his patent as Judge of the Admiralty in the Northern Counties, being an able and honest man. It is said that the offices of Chancellor and Commissary of the Archbishop of York are now for the Tyme disposed of, but they say they are settled in trust for Mr. Levett, as they lately were for Sir Tobie Mathew" [the Archbishop's son]. Before 1633 Thomas Levett had moved to Tixover, co. Rutland, a small hamlet in the smallest county of England. Here, on 21 May 1633, he sued Richard Bullingham of Ketton (Chancery Proceedings, Series 2, Bundle 408, No. 95). Bullingham was the grandson of Bishop Bullingham, and had sold the tithes of Ketton to Levett for twenty-one years, but had previously charged the premises with certain payments, unknown to Levett. In 1639–40 Thomas Levett was high sheriff of Rutlandshire. The State Papers (Domestic), Charles I, vol. 15, p. 465, contain the following abstract of a letter from him to the Council, dated 17 Feb. 1639/40:

"Upon December 20 I received instructions for levying the ship money: and, on January 20, the Lords' second letter, requesting me to pay by February 20 such moneys as I should by that time have collected. I have lain sick here in London since Martinmas (November 11): Nevertheless I have by my agents been framing my assessment, and, I hope, by diligence, to bring in the whole money for my small county by April 1st."

Thomas Levett of Tixover is said in all the printed pedigrees to have married a daughter of John Lindley of Leathley. It is certain that in 1613 Margaret, the only daughter of this John Lindley, was married to

"Thomas Levit, Esq.," who is named as son-in-law and supervisor in John Lindley's will, dated 31 May 1613 and proved 30 June 1614. (York Wills, vol. 33, fo. 144.) If this were Thomas of Tixover, it was an early marriage, for he was but nineteen at the date of the will, and had taken his B.A. at Oxford only very recently, on 8 Feb. 1612/13. But this marriage of 1613 would permit the birth of our Thomas Levet in 1616. In connection with Rutlandshire it is significant that this will of John Lindley mentions his "cousin Sir Guy Palmes," who represented Rutlandshire seven times in Parliament from 1614 to 1640. Arthur Lindley, the oldest son of John Lindley, married a daughter of Sir John Garrard, Lord Mayor of London. Two of her sisters married Lincolnshire men, one Sir John Reade of Wrangle, and the other Francis Hamby of Tathwell. It is curious to note that the granddaughter of this Arthur Lindley married the son and heir of Robert Hitch, Dean of York, and thus a grandson of Capt. Christopher Levett, the explorer.

Hunter's Deanery of Doncaster states that Roger Dodsworth, the antiquary, "was intimate with Levett of Tixover, who gave him a Chartulary of the Cluniacs of Pontefract." This was the Chartulary of St. John of Pontefract, published by the Yorkshire Archæological Society. On this volume, in Dodsworth's own hand, is the record that it came to him "ex dono Tomae Levett de High Melton, in anno 1626–7." Probably Thomas Levett died at Tixover before 1655, for in Dugdale's Monasticon, of which the first edition was printed in 1655, is an abstract of a deed concerning Roche Abbey with this caption, "ex autographo penes Thomam Levet nuper de Tikesover in com. Rutland." The parish registers of Tixover were included with those of Ketton up to 1740. These have been searched, but no reference to Thomas Levett has been found. The registers have suffered much from damp, and the ink is so faint that many pages could not be deciphered.

John Levett, third son of Thomas Levett of Melton, was born about 1605. He was admitted pensioner at Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1623. Peile's Register states that he had studied at Conisbrough and Haughton. He proceeded LL.D. in 1633 (*per lit. reg.*), and became a somewhat celebrated lawyer at York, but he seems always to have been financially embarrassed. In 1636 he married Mary, daughter and coheir of Emmanuel Mote, who owned the manor of Melton. Through this marriage John Levett acquired a considerable estate, including the manors of Melton and Bentley, charged with payments to the sisters of his wife. A collection of abstracts of deeds in *Topographer and Genealogist*, vol. 3, pp. 519–526, shows that by 1637 John Levett had sold Bentley manor to Sir Arthur Ingram, who in turn sold it to Bryan Cooke of Doncaster. The manor of Melton was offered to Sir John Melton in 1640, but as he failed to complete the purchase it went to Dr. Richard Berry, together with the Levett lands in Bentley and Cadeby, in satisfaction of large sums of money which Dr. Berry had lent to John and Thomas Levett. Hunter's Deanery of Doncaster quotes many letters from Dr. Berry. In one of them, dated 7 Dec. 1649, he says that a general release has been sealed between him and Levett; and in one dated 4 Mar. 1650 he says that Dr. Levett had promised to remove his wife and children out of Melton Hall and to yield possession, with all the demesne lands. Dr. Berry was the son of William Berrie of Walesby, co. Lincoln, and was B.A. of Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1606, M.A. 1609, and B.Med. 1614. He also obtained a diploma from Padua in 1620, and seems to have been a man of means, though John Levett says "he was beholdden to Mr. Thomas Levett for the greater part

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of his fortune." Dr. Berry married in 1637 Prudence, only daughter and heir of the unhappy Thomas Gargrave, and lived at Hodroyd, near Felkirk, where he acquired a large estate. His nephew, Major John Monkton, was the ancestor of the present Viscount Galway, and of General Robert Monckton, who was wounded with Wolfe at Quebec.

On 9 July 1640 James Morley sued John and Thomas Levett for £2700, for his interest "in certain cole mines lying in Harraton and Riccleston, co. Durham." Morley claimed that he had in 1639 sold his interest for £300 a year for 21 years to Thomas Lewis of York and Thomas Levett of Tixover, and that they had "acknowledged a statute staple of £5000 in consideration thereof;" that in June 1639 Thomas and John Levett had agreed to purchase this £300 a year for £2700, but that Sir John Melton, John Levett, and Thomas Levett combined to deprive Morley of his money. (Chancery Proceedings, Charles I, Bundle M. 46, No. 18.) This matter of the Harraton collieries came before Cromwell's Committee for Compounding in 1651–2, and on pp. 2127–9 of the Calendar appears the petition of Thomas Wray *et al.* and the answer of John Levett and Josiah Primate. On 21 Jan. 1652/3 "John Levett, D.C.L., of York" begs an allowance for attending on the Committee.

Both John and Thomas Levett were probably Royalists, and they appear on the Calendars of the Committee for Advancing Money (pages 769 and 1142). In each case, heard in 1649–50, both brothers were cited to appear, but neither appeared, and the resulting fine was ordered to be levied by distress on John Levett's estate.

Ralph Levett, second son of Thomas Levett of Melton, was baptized at Melton 3 Jan. 1600. Following his father's wish, he matriculated at Christ's College, Cambridge, as a pensioner, in July 1617. This was the college of John Milton, and John Wilson of the First Church in Boston took his degree there, as did Ezekiel Rogers, the founder of Rowley, Mass., and Thomas Jenner of Roxbury, Weymouth, and Saco. Ralph Levett took his B.A. in 1620/1, and proceeded M.A. in 1624, in which latter year he was ordained a deacon at York. Perhaps he had a curacy in Yorkshire, but he was soon associated with Lincolnshire. It may be that he knew Wheelwright at Cambridge, for they were there at the same time, though Wheelwright took his M.A. at Sidney Sussex College in 1618, one year after Ralph Levett was matriculated at Christ's College.

On 25 Jan. 1631/2, as shown above, "Mr. Ralfe Levit and Anne Hutchinson" were married at Bilsby.* She was a daughter of Edward Hutchinson of Alford and therefore a sister of the second wife of John Wheelwright. Perhaps Wheelwright himself performed the ceremony. In 1633–34 "Radulphus Levet, rector," signs the transcripts of Grainsby, Lincolnshire. On 3 Apr. 1635, when the former rector, Thomas Humphrey, was buried, "Ralph Levitt, M.A.," was presented to the rectory of Grainsby by Frances, widow of Sir William Wray†. (Lincoln Presentation

*Canon Foster has found in the Bilsby transcripts some new data about John Wheelwright. On 22 May 1628 his daughter Susanna was baptized; she it was who married Edward Rishworth. On 18 May 1629, the day after the date of the Wheelwright deed, John Wheelwright's first wife, Mary Storre, was buried. Canon Foster has also found in the transcripts of Hogsthorpe, 6 July 1620, the marriage of Robert Towle and Elizabeth Lawson, and in those of Willoughby, 24 June 1624, the marriage of Georgius Dearebarne and Helena Robinson.

†These Wrays of Glentworth were a notable Puritan family of Lincolnshire, originating in Yorkshire and connected with the Wentworths and with the Melton Levetts. The father of Sir William was Queen Elizabeth's Lord Chief Justice, Sir Christopher Wray, who married a daughter of Nicholas Girlington. The Girlingtons were lords of the manor of Mumby, and of them John Wheelwright held land in Mumby. Frances Wray, a granddaughter of Sir William, married in 1640 the famous Sir Harry Vane, a lifelong friend of Wheelwright.

Deeds, 1635, p. 25.) The Grainsby transcripts for 1636–37 are missing. That of 1638 is signed "Radulphus Levet" and that of 1639 "Raph Levet." The transcripts for 1640–48 are missing. In 1649 the signature is "R. Levet, rector." The years 1650–63 are missing, and the year 1664 is signed by William Jackson. The transcripts show that on 6 July 1638 Thomas Levet was buried, and on 11 Dec. 1638 "Thomas Levet, son of Raph Levet and Ann his wife," was baptized. No record has been found of this Ralph Levet after 1649. He was the father of Francis Levet of Little Carlton, for whose marriage and children see p. 6 above.

Wheelwright was dismissed from his Bilsby vicarage in January 1632, and in 1636, with a party of relatives and friends, sailed for New England. What more natural than that Ralph Levett should entrust to his brother-in-law Wheelwright a near relative, perhaps his only nephew? John Levett's answer to the bill in Chancery shows that he and his brother Thomas had borrowed £3000 from Dr. Berry on the Melton estates. Evidently the family inheritance was beginning to go under the hammer before 1640, in which year Sir John Melton and Sir Arthur Ingram died.

If then we assume that Ralph Levett of Grainsby did entrust a near relative to his brother-in-law Wheelwright for the New England venture, what was the exact degree of relationship? Let us analyze the family of Ralph. His only brothers and sister were:

A. Thomas Levett, the oldest son and heir, baptized at Melton 28 July 1594. (*Vide supra.*) My theory is that our Thomas Levet was his son, born in 1616.

B. John, born about 1605 (*vide supra*); living in 1665; too young to have been the father of our Thomas Levet.

C. Peter, born 1610–11. In Peile's Register we find that as the son of Thomas Levett of Melton he was admitted pensioner at Christ's College, Cambridge, 27 Jan. 1628/9. He had attended the Rotherham School under Mr. Thomas Bonner. He proceeded B.A. 1632/3, M.A. 1636, and became vicar of Cantley, near Doncaster, where he died in 1672. Perhaps in 1666 he was vicar of Boynton, co. York. He was too young to have been the father of our Thomas Levet.

D. Jane, born 1607; married in 1627 Andrew Goodhand of Kirmond in Lincolnshire, near Grainsby. His great-uncle Nicholas married Judith Harneis, the sister of Thomas, who married Esther Hutchinson. Jane Goodhand died in 1632, and is buried at Melton.

In the next preceding generation of Melton Levetts we find that Thomas Levett, the father of Ralph, had only the following brothers and sisters:

A. William Levett of Bentley, Yorkshire, born 1574; married Elizabeth Vickars or Wray (widow probably of Thomas Sheppard), who died 1635, leaving a will which mentions daughter Dorothy Sheppard, grandchild Thomas Sheppard, and nephew William Vickars. William Levett himself died 1638. His will is not extant, but his inquisition post mortem gives as his next heir his nephew Thomas Levett of Tixover, and says that William Levett made his will 14 May 1638; in it he left his lands to "my cozen Thomas Levet son of my brother Robert Levet." Apparently he had no children and did not wish his lands to go to his spendthrift nephew of Tixover.

B. Robert Levett of Normanton, born 1576; married in 1605 Frances, daughter of John Nalson of Snydale, a hamlet of Normanton. His children are thus recorded on the Normanton register:

i. KATHERINE, daughter of Robert Levett of Snydale, bapt. 30 June 1607; d. 12 May 1610.
ii. THOMAS, son of Leavett of Snydale, bapt. 3 Sept. 1609.
iii. ELIZABETH, daughter of Robert Levett of Snydall, bapt. 21 July 1611.
iv. JOHN, son of Robert Levett of Snydall, bapt. 21 Sept. 1613.
v. ELIZABETH, daughter of Robert Levett of Normanton, bapt. 9 Oct. 1617; bur. 3 Apr. 1625.
vi. THOMAS, son of Robert Levett of Normanton, bapt. 1 May 1619. He is said in Mr. Gibson-Cullum's Levett pedigree to have married Joanna, daughter of John Jaques of Epworth, co. Lincoln, and to have been the progenitor of the Normanton Levetts and Hansons.
vii. MARIE, daughter of Robert Levett of Normanton, bapt. 3 July 1621.
viii. ROBERT, son of Robert Levett of Normanton, bapt. 7 Nov. 1622; bur. 19 Mar. 1625.
ix. RALPH, son of Robert Levett of Normanton, bapt. 28 Aug. 1625; bur. 14 Oct. 1625.
x. AGNES, daughter of Robert Levett of Normanton, bapt. 15 April 1627; bur. 29 July 1627.
xi. JANE, daughter of Robert Levett of Normanton, bur. 20 May 1627.

Robert Levett himself was buried at Normanton 26 Jan. 1655/6. No will is extant. According to the records shown above he had two sons named Thomas, of whom one was born in 1609, and the other in 1619. If, as was sometimes the case, he had two surviving sons named Thomas, it is possible that one of them was our Thomas Levet; but his brother William, in his will referred to above, leaves his land to Thomas, "son of my brother Robert Levett of Normanton"; therefore in 1638 Robert had apparently but *one* son Thomas.

C. Catherine Levett, born 1578; married William Strelley of Strelley.

Apparently in this generation there are no possibilities for our Thomas Levet, unless we assume that Robert had two surviving sons named Thomas, and that one of them was our ancestor—a rather violent assumption. The children of this generation would be cousins of Ralph Levett of Grainsby.

Going back one generation, we find that Ralph Levett of Melton, the grandfather of Ralph of Grainsby, had no brothers and but two sisters, Anne and Jane. There are no possibilities here, and the relationship is moved one degree farther off.

William Levett of Normanton and Melton, the great-great-grandfather of Ralph of Grainsby, married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of William Wentworth of Sprotborough. No will is extant. His administration is on file at York. The son and heir, Nicholas Levett, born in 1524, survived his own son Ralph and died in 1598. We find no record of brothers or sisters.

Thus in five generations of the Melton Levetts there is apparently but one possibility for our Thomas Levet, namely: he may have been a son of Thomas of Tixover and a nephew of Ralph of Grainsby, the brother-in-law of John Wheelwright. The dates for such a theory harmonize so well, and the probability of a Wheelwright and Wentworth connection is so strong, that until proof to the contrary is shown I feel convinced that this is our line. Could the wills of any of the four sons of Thomas Levett of

Melton be found, this theory might be confirmed or upset. But in spite of a careful search at both principal and diocesan registries, no probate proceedings for any of the four sons have been discovered. Probably Thomas and Ralph Levett died during the confused Commonwealth period, from 1650 to 1660. But John Levett was living in 1665, and Peter Levett, we know, died in 1672.

In the exhaustive search for Levetts in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire I desire to thank my friend Canon C. W. Foster, editor of the Lincoln Record Society. Canon Foster's suggestions have been most helpful, and have resulted in tracing the Melton Levetts into Lincolnshire. With his aid a thorough search has now been made of Lincoln Subsidy Rolls, Wills and Administrations, Institutions and Presentation Deeds, etc.

Among other early Levetts in New England the explorer, Capt. Christopher Levett, whose life has been so ably written by Hon. James Phinney Baxter for the Gorges Society, comes first. He bore the same arms as the Melton Levetts, and the Visitation of Dorset in 1623 gives his pedigree (2 *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, vol. 2, p. 354). There may have been a connection between the families, but Christopher was descended not from the Melton Levetts, but from another line, the Levetts of Bolton Percy.

The pedigree in the Visitation of Dorset began with "——— Levett of Harbord, co. York," who had three sons, Richard, William, and Percival. This undoubtedly means Harewood, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. William Levett of Harewood died in 1569. A Chancery proceeding was begun by his oldest son Matthew in 1570 (Levett *v.* Levett, Series 2, Bundle 116, No. 40). It recites that by his second wife William Levett of Harewood left four sons, Richard, William, Percival, and Charles. These are undoubtedly the sons of "——— Levett of Harbord," and Percival was the godson and cousin of Francis Levet of Bolton Percy, mentioned in his will of 1614/15. William of Harewood was probably* the son William mentioned in the will of his father Richard of Bolton Percy in 1567. This establishes the following pedigree:

1. John Levett of Bolton Percy, whose will was proved 1526 (York Wills, vol. 9, fo. 364), married Agnes ———.
   Children:
   - i. William; his will of 1546 mentions sons *Guy*, *Francis*, *John*.
   - ii. John, a clerk; under 23 in 1526; admon. in 1575.
   - iii. Robert.
   - 2. iv. Richard, executor of his father's will.
   - v. Isabel, m. ——— Kendall.
   - vi. Alison, m. ——— Pickering.

2. Richard Levit, of Appleton in Bolton Percy, whose will was proved 1567 (York Wills, vol. 17, fo. 759), married first Ellen ———; and secondly Constance ———.
   Children by first wife:
   - i. Henry, of Appleton; will proved 1597.
   - 3. ii. William.
   - iii. Katherine.

* There was also a branch of the Levetts at Holme and Lund in the East Riding, in which Matthew and William were family names. It may be that William of Harewood came from this line, but their wills do not indicate this, and the mention of a godson Percival Levet in the will of Francis Levet seems to connect the line of Christopher with the Bolton Percy family.

iv. Isabel.
v. Robert.
vi. James.
vii. Ellen.

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Children by second wife:

viii. Thomas.
ix. Margaret.

3. William Levett, of Harewood, married first Anne ——; and secondly Joan Ynglande. Admon. 6 July 1569 (Dean and Chapter Vacancy Act Book, 1568–70, fo. 165).

Children by first wife:

i. Matthew.
ii. Elizabeth, m. William Nawte.
iii. Anne, m. John Wardman.
iv. Katherine, m. Otho Wardman.

Children by second wife:

v. Richard, Mayor of Doncaster. His will of 1618 mentions only one son, *William*, Alderman of Doncaster, whose will of 1643 mentions two sons, Robert and John, and four daughters.
vi. William, twin brother to Richard, of whom there is no further record.
4. vii. Percival, b. 1560.
viii. Charles, probably of Scrayingham, m. Grace Ampleforth.
ix. Joan, m. Thomas Usher.

4. Percival Levett, born 1560, was freeman of York 1581, innkeeper, and sheriff of the City of York 1597. He was buried at St. Martin's, Micklegate, 13 Feb. 1625. He married Elizabeth Rotherforth, daughter and heiress of Alexander.

Children:

i. Mary, bapt. 1581; m. John Smith of Cottingham.
ii. Rudderforth, bapt. 1582; d. 1584.
iii. Grace, bapt. 1584; m. William Todd of York.
5. iv. Christopher, b. 5 Apr. 1586.
v. Percival, merchant of York; had nine children, but no child named Thomas.
vi. Anne, m. (1) 1623 Christopher Topham of York, perhaps uncle of the Toppans of Newbury; m. (2) 1627 Joseph Micklethwaite of Swyne, great-grandfather of Viscount Micklethwaite.

5. Capt. Christopher Levett, born 5 Apr. 1586. He is the well-known explorer who sailed to New England in 1623, and again in 1630, in the *Porcupine*, and died at sea in 1631. He married first Mercy More, daughter of Robert, rector of Guisley, York; and secondly Frances Lottisham, daughter of Oliver, of co. Somerset.

Children by first wife:

i. Sarah, b. 1610; m. Robert Hitch, rector of Normanton and dean of York.
ii. Rebecca, b. 1612; d. young.
iii. Mary, b. 1613; d. unm. 1644. Her will, proved 1644/5, mentions all her kindred (York Wills).
iv. Jeremiah, b. 1614; rector of Leyton in Essex; m. Edith ——; d. 1650.

Children by second wife:

v. Timothy, b. 1617; of West Lydford in co. Somerset. Will dated 1650, proved 1669, mentions wife Florence, children *Mary* and *Joan*.
vi. Elizabeth, b. 1619; d. unm.

Thus the line of Christopher Levett contained no near relative named Thomas. It may be that our Thomas Levet was a distant connection, but this is unlikely.

New information concerning Christopher Levett's last voyage to New England is contained in a Chancery proceeding begun in 1631 by his widow against Thomas Wright and Robert Gough of Bristol, owners of the ship *Porcupine*. The proceedings give in detail the sailing agreement and mention the grant of 6000 acres to Levett.

Concerning John Leavitt of Hingham, Mass., Mr. Sheldon Leavitt, Jr., writes that the earliest known record appears in Dorchester, Mass., where in 1634 land was granted to him by the town. In 1636 he was made a freeman of Hingham, where first a house-lot and in the course of time much other land was granted to him. His first wife (possibly, according to Pope, the Mary Lovitt of the Dorchester Church) died at Hingham 4 July 1646, and he married for his second wife, 16 Dec. 1646, Sarah, daughter of Edward Gilman, then of Hingham, Mass., and later of Exeter, N. H. For many years he was a deacon of the church at Hingham and a selectman of the town, which he represented for several sessions in the General Court. He died in 1691, leaving a will, filed in Boston, in which he calls himself "a tayler," and spells his name as above. Some of his children moved to Exeter, and became the ancestors of a distinguished family of Leavitts there, among whom was Dudley Leavitt, the compiler of an excellent Farmer's Almanac. I can find no reason for believing that any connection existed between these Leavitts and our Thomas Levet. Perhaps John Leavitt came from the Essex Levitts, for whom see the next paragraph.

The affidavit of Nathaniel and Abraham Drake (*vide supra*) has led some to believe that our Thomas Levet, like his wife Isabel Bland, came from co. Essex. In Essex there were several families of Levitts, one of which, the Levitts of Messing, had some connection with New England through the Whites. (Register, vol. 55, pp. 22 *et seq.*) It may be that John Leavitt of Dorchester and Hingham came from one of these Essex lines, but a careful search of Essex wills reveals no Thomas Levet who could be our Exeter settler. Thomas Levit of Tarling died in 1631/2, leaving a son and grandson, both named Richard. William Levit of Messing died in 1626, leaving a wife Margaret and sons William, John, Richard, and Isaac. Henry Levitt of Walden died in 1635, leaving a wife Lydia and daughter Mary and other children unnamed. Robert Levett of Feering died in 1648, leaving brothers William and Thomas and sister Grissell, who had married Ralph Wharton. At Purleigh lived a John Levitt, who died in 1633, leaving a brother Thomas, a sister Susan, who married Daniel Goodwin, and a sister Mary, who married William Pond. (Register, vol. 54, p. 348). This Thomas Levit died at Purleigh in 1641, leaving a wife Mary but no children. His goods were bequeathed to his sisters, Susan Goodwin and Mary Pond. Robert Levitt of Stebbing died between 1638 and 1649, leaving a son Robert, a daughter Elizabeth, who married John Clemence, and daughters Elizabeth and Mary, both unmarried. Elizabeth Levet of Theydon Gernon died in 1561, leaving a son John and a daughter Margaret. John Lovet of Little Bromley died in 1561, leaving a wife Marget, sons John, Humphrey, Henry, and Christopher, and a daughter Mary. The wills of several other Levetts are filed from 1550 to 1660, but apparently they have no bearing on our problem.

Thus a systematic investigation of these three sets of clues gives no positive proof of the ancestry of our Thomas Levet of Exeter and Hampton. The most probable line is that of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, connected with both Wheelwright and Wentworth.

But if Levet were a protégé of John Wheelwright, he did not follow the Antinomian to Wells in 1642. The removal of their pastor scattered the Exeter settlers in that year, and in 1643 we find Thomas Levet at Hampton, next neighbor to Exeter, where his name is signed to a petition against Lieut. William Howard.

The list of grants and possessions in the old Hampton town records, made about 1644, in the beautiful handwriting of William Howard, the town clerk, shows that before that date Thomas Levet had married Isabel (Bland), widow of Francis Asten of Dedham and Hampton. The record follows:

II. 58. House lots and other ground granted &c. unto the several inhabitants of Hampton, compiled Anno 1644.

Thomas Levitt of Hampton.

1. 5 a. of upland for a house lot granted unto Fras. Asten the former husband of Thomas Levitt's wife, lying betw. upland of Saml. Getchell, sometimes Will. Hunton's, before that John Philbrook's to the West, and the upland of Thomas Sleeper's sometimes Chr. Lasone's.
2. 5 a. of upland granted to Thomas Levitt.
3. 10 a. upland in the North plan of upland.
4. 6 a. meadow granted to the above named Fras. Asten, former husband of Tho. Levitts wife, lying between the meadow & marsh of Timothy Dalton N.E., and Will: Howard S.W.
5. 3 a. meadow bought of Anthony Taylor, betw. A. T. & Taylor's River.
6. 6 a. salt Marsh granted unto him, betw. Widow Husse N., & Will. Maston S.
7. 5 a. salt marsh bot. of Authony Taylor.

Additions to Anno 1658.

8. 5 a. bought, granted to Edw. Palmer.
9. Granted to Tho. Levitt 2½ a. swamp betw. swamp of Sam. Getchell & Timothy Dalton.
10. 5 a. salt marsh gr. to John Sanders.
11. 4 a. upland bot. of John Samborne.
12. 11 a. salt marsh beyond Falls River.

The Norfolk County record of the birth of James Levet in 1652 calls him "son of Thomas and *Elisabeth* Levitt," but this is a clerical error, repeated in Pope's Pioneers of Maine and New Hampshire. We may safely assume that the only wife of our Thomas Levet was Isabel Bland, daughter of John Bland of Watertown and Martha's Vineyard. John Bland was a stepson of Jeremiah Norcross, and his mysterious *alias* of "John Smith" has been explained by Dr. Charles E. Banks, in his History of Martha's Vineyard, vol. 2, pp. 41–46. It is possible that John Bland and the Hampton Drakes were of Yorkshire origin.

The old pronunciation of the family name was Lovitt. In spelling it our Thomas Levet seems to have used interchangeably "Levet," "Levitt," and "Levit." These are the forms in which the name of Ralph Levett of Grainsby appears: "Levet" when he signed his name, "Levitt" when others wrote it. In the case of our Thomas Levet the uncertainty of Colonial orthography is increased by the fact that apparently he could not write, and always signed by a mark, so that his name was spelled and written by some one else. It is "Levitt" in the Exeter Combination, written by his relative Wheelwright, and also in the record of a deed in 1659, in the "Wheelwright Deed," the Hampton record of 1644, and the Drake deposition. In signatures of 1654 and 1657 and in the Martha's

Vineyard power of attorney it is "Levit." In the testimony in Drake *v.* Colcord, 1676, and a jury verdict of 1680 it is "Levet," and so distinctly in the wills of both Thomas and Isabel. In the Hampton petition of 1643 it was probably also "Levet"; a copy of this petition is in the Massachusetts Archives, and in it the scrivener has spelled the name "Livet."

In 1647, when Wheelwright was called to the Hampton church, Thomas Levet was already there. He lived in Hampton until his death in 1696, a quiet, useful citizen, seldom prominent in town matters. He was perhaps a tanner, though the only deed from him in the old records describes him as a "planter." He appears in 1654 with Robert Smith as an appraiser of the estate of George Haborne or Rabone, who was one of the Wheelwright group and probably a Lincolnshire man. In 1657 Thomas Levet and Godfrey Dearborn witnessed the will of Susan, widow of George Haborne and then the wife of Thomas Leader of Boston. Dearborn, who followed Levet from Exeter to Hampton, was a Lincolnshire man. (Register, vol. 60, p. 308.) Levet's stepdaughter Isabel married Philip Towle,* who came to Hampton when Wheelwright was there.

Thomas Levet served as selectman of Hampton in 1657 and 1667, and was constable in 1664. He served on several juries, and took the oath of allegiance to Massachusetts in 1678. He was "freed from Training" in 1681, probably on account of age or disability. In 1683, with eighteen others, he signed a petition that their poll-tax be abated, because of old age, "many about seventy, some above eighty, others near ninety, being past labour and work." In 1685 he signed Weare's petition against Cranfield. The Dukes County records show a power of attorney dated 16 Apr. 1691 from Thomas and Isabel Levet to their son John, authorizing him to deal with Isabel's share of the Bland estates in Martha's Vineyard. Apparently some dispute between John Levet and another coheir, Elias, son of Philip Watson, was settled by a division in 1699. John Levet's name in subsequent conveyances of the Vineyard land is spelled "Levit," "Lovet," and "Leavit." Thomas Levet died 28 Nov. 1696, "aged about† eighty," the town record says, and his will and inventory are on file at Concord, N. H. (Probate Records, vol. 2, p. 26, and vol. 3, p. 125.) An abstract of his will, dated 9 July 1692, is as follows:

To loving wife the thirds of all lands and meddows, etc., with housing convenient during her life. To wife two cows, two swine, three sheep, my brass and puter, the thirds of all my corn. To son Hezron Levet 100 acres at the new plantation, £20 formerly given him, and 5s. after my decease. To Hezron's son Thomas Levet £10, to be paid him at the age of one and twenty. Residue of lands and housing to sons Aretas and John Levet equally, John to divide and Aretas to choose. To son Aretas all in his house and half the wedges, half the cross cut saw, and half the tools about husbandry, with his house that he now lives in. To son [John] Levet the other half the tools mentioned with all carpenter tools and his house and ground. To son James Levet £10. To three daughters, Isabella Towle, Jemima Knowles, and Kezia Tucker, 5s. apiece. Executors: wife and son John Levet. Witnesses: Abraham Drake, Senr., Abraham Drake, Junr., Robert Drake.

Inventory, £210.1.0, includes all buildings, housing, barn, and house-lot containing 10 acres. 15 acres upland. 25 acres mead and marsh. 5 acres upland and swamp. 4 shares commonage. 60 acres in the North Division. 100 acres in New Plantation. Appraised by Abr. Drake, Senr., and John Smith.

* Towle was probably a Lincolnshire man, perhaps from Habrough. Many Towle wills are filed at Lincoln, but they throw no light on his ancestry. Several Towles are still living in Lincolnshire.

† The old record is torn here, so that it cannot be definitely stated whether it says "above" or "about."

Isabel Levet, widow, died 9 Feb. 1698/9, aged about 87, and her will and inventory are filed at Concord. (Probate Records, vol. 3, p. 165.) An abstract of her will is as follows:

To daughter Isball Toule one cow, one box of linen, and my wearing clothes. To daughter Jemima Knowls one cow and one sheep. To grandchild Sarah Knowls one sheep. To daughter Keziah Tucker 12s. All my puter and brass to be equally divided among my three daughters. Residue to son John Levet, sole executor. Witnesses: John Smith, Senr., and John Smith, Junr.

Inventory taken by Thomas Roby and John Tucke, £76.11.9, including "an estate at Mathes Vineyard."

The "three daughters," Isabel Towle, Jemima Knowles, and Kezia Tucker, were the three children of Isabel Bland by her first husband, Francis Asten.

The children and grandchildren of Thomas Levet may be arranged in a pedigree as follows:

1. THOMAS[1] LEVET had
   2. i. HEZRON,[2] b. 1644.
   3. ii. ARETAS, b. abt. 1646.
   4. iii. JOHN, b. abt. 1648.
   5. iv. JAMES, b. 10 Nov. 1652.

2. HEZRON[2] LEVET (*Thomas*[1]), born in 1644, according to a deposition, resided at Hampton, and died there 30 Nov. 1712. He was a tanner and shoemaker. He married, 25 Sept. 1667, MARTHA TAYLOR, daughter of Anthony of Hampton.

   On 15 Feb. 1702/3 Hezron Levet and his son Thomas, who like his father was a tanner, made an agreement by which the son was to take over all his father's house, tanyards, and lands, and to maintain his father and mother in comfort "beside what my father shall get by his practis and my mother by stilling." The son also agreed to make certain payments to his four sisters. Both father and son signed their names "Levvit" to this instrument. (N. H. Deeds, vol. 13, p. 237.)

   Children:

   i. LYDIA,[3] b. 5 Aug. 1668; m. MEPHIBOSHETH SAMBORN.
   ii. JOHN, b. 26 Nov. 1670; m. SARAH HOBBS, daughter of John.
   iii. JAMES, b. and d. 1673.
   iv. MOSES, b. 30 Jan. 1673/4; m. MARY CARR.
   v. THOMAS, b. 8 May 1677; m. ELIZABETH ATKINSON of Newbury, daughter of John and granddaughter of Theodore Atkinson.
   vi. MARY, b. 20 Oct. 1679; m. CAPT. BENJAMIN THOMAS, son of James of Dover.
   vii. ABIGAIL.
   viii. SARAH.

3. ARETAS[2] LEVET (*Thomas*[1]), born about 1646, resided at Hampton, and died there 14 Jan. 1739. He married, 1 Aug. 1678, RUTH SLEEPER, daughter of Thomas, an early settler of Hampton. He was a farmer, and served in King William's war. No will or inventory of Aretas Levet has been found. On 25 Dec. 1710 he conveyed to his sons James and Thomas certain lands at Hampton. The estate of Thomas Levet, the father, was finally divided in 1725 by Sergt. John Levet and James, the son of Aretas. (N. H. Deeds, vol. 74, p. 154.)

   Children:

   i. LUTHER[3] (a daughter), b. 1679; d. 1684.

ii. Elizabeth, b. 1680; d. 1684.
iii. Mehitabel, b. 8 June 1682; m. Robert Rowe of Hampton.
iv. James, b. 1683; m. (1) 20 Feb. 1717 Ann Brackett, daughter of Capt. Anthony; m. (2) Hannah ———.
v. Thomas, b. 15 Jan. 1685/6; m. 24 Nov. 1714 Elizabeth Locke, daughter of Nathaniel of Hampton.
vi. Elizabeth, b. 2 Aug. 1690; m. James Samborn, son of Nathaniel.
vii. Ruth, b. 19 May 1693; m. Stephen Samborn, son of Stephen.

4. Sergeant John[2] Levet (*Thomas*[1]), born about 1648, died 1726/7. He married Deliverance Robie, granddaughter of Henry Robie of Hampton, of the family of Robie of Castle Donington, Leicestershire. He served in several campaigns against the Indians. His will, dated 23 Dec. 1726, is filed at Concord, N. H. (N. H. Wills, vol. 7, p. 638), and leaves to wife Deliverance the improvement of his estate; to daughter Deliverance, at age of 18 or at marriage, one-half the estate; if she has a male heir her share is to go to him; if not, it is to go to John Levet, son of "cousin" Thomas and grandson of Aretas. The estate, inventoried at £1029, included a halberd and some books.

Child:

i. Deliverance,[3] b. 6 May 1719; m. Jeremiah Clough of Salisbury.

5. James[2] Levet (*Thomas*[1]), born 10 Nov. 1652, died at Portsmouth, N. H., 4 Apr. 1718, and is buried in the Point of Graves Cemetery there. He married about 1692 Sarah Partridge, widow of Nehemiah of Salisbury and Portsmouth, a brother of Governor William Partridge. Her maiden name does not appear, but she was a kinswoman of Anthony Ellins, an early settler of Portsmouth, who in 1668 conveyed land at Portsmouth to Nehemiah Partridge and his wife Sarah, "my kinswoman."

Little has been known of James Levet, perhaps because he left no children, but he was the richest of his family. In 1668, at the age of sixteen, he removed to Portsmouth, then the most aristocratic settlement in the new province. There he was the clerk of Henry Dering, a Portsmouth merchant, and before that a tavern-keeper at Hampton. Dering soon removed to Boston, but James Levet remained at Portsmouth. His name was generally spelled "Lovet," that being the usual pronunciation of the name. He was selectman of Portsmouth in 1696/7 and again in 1708, deputy sheriff in 1694, coroner in 1697, and constable in 1706. In 1705 he was overseer of the will of Roger Rose. His will, dated 1 Apr. 1718 (N. H. Wills, vol. 10, p. 5), leaves all his property to his wife Sarah, and is witnessed by Thomas Beck, Jr., Elizabeth Furber, and Ann Barn. The widow Sarah Levet made her will 10 Nov. 1733 (N. H. Wills, vol. 14, p. 421), leaving bequests to grandsons Nehemiah Partridge and William Partridge, to granddaughters Sarah McBride and Abigail Chapman, to great-granddaughters Sarah Partridge and Abigail Partridge, to Sarah Braughton, daughter of Abigail Chapman, to great-granddaughter Sarah Beck, to granddaughter Mary Beck, to Mary, wife of Nehemiah Partridge, and to Mary, wife of William Partridge. The residue she left to Samuel Beck, who had married Mary Partridge. Her inventory is a long one and includes a silver tankard.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE LEVETTS OF ENGLAND

Mr. Sheldon Leavitt, Jr., has had a search made at the College of Arms, the results of which he has allowed me to peruse. It appears that there are five Levett families among English armorial families: (1) The Levetts of Normanton and Melton. (2) The family of Christopher Levett. (3) The Levetts of Staffordshire, descended from William Levett of Savernake, Wilts, through Sir Richard Levett, lord mayor of London in 1707. (4) The Levetts of Sussex. (5) The Levetts of Chester.

Besides these armorial Levetts, and distinct from the lines traced in the foregoing article, I have the following notes on English Levetts:

LEVETTS OF SUFFOLK

Humphrey Levett, of Thelnetham, Suffolk, yeoman. His wife Bridget and son and heir John Levett sued 19 Nov. 1603 John Halman, son and heir of Robert Halman, late of Swaffham, Norfolk. (Chancery Proceedings, Charles I, Bundle L 63, No. 7.)

LEVETTS OF LEICESTER AND RUTLAND

James Levytt of Melton Mowbray, co. Leicester, mercer, born at Whissendine, co. Rutland. Will dated 20 May 1597 and proved 5 Oct. 1599. Sons Richard, Matthew, and Edward; daughters Alice Ward and Helen Newball; brother's son James Levytt. (Peterborough Probate Registry, Year 1600, No. 59.) His own son Richard died in 1638. (Adm. Peterborough, 1638.) James Levett of Melton Mowbray, Gent., in 1628 sued John Pendock and obtained judgment on Pendock's lands in Tollerton, co. Notts. (Chancery Proceedings, Charles I, Bundle L 48, No. 47.)

James Levett, the younger, of Whissendine, co. Rutland, evidently a connection of the Levetts of Melton Mowbray, in 1646 sued his sister Anne, wife of Stephen Clarke the younger, for money which he had buried in his parlor at Whitsundine before he enlisted in the Parliamentary army in 1642. (Chancery Proceedings, Charles I, Levett *v.* Clerke, Bundle L 1, No. 12.) George Lyvett of Whissendine in his will of 14 Sept. 1619 mentions son James.

Richard Levitt of Helpringham, co. Lincoln. Will dated 28 Dec. 1717 and proved at Lincoln 1717/18. Wife Anne; daughters Mary, Anne, and Elizabeth; brother William Levitt of Whissendine, co. Rutland. (Lincoln Wills, 1717, fo. 87.)

Thomas Levitt of Empingham, co. Rutland, blacksmith. Will dated 19 Jan. 1671 and proved at Empingham 2 May 1672. Sons Charles, George, Robert, John, James, and William. (Lincoln Wills, Dean and Chapter, 1666–71, fo. 207.)

LEVETTS OF NORTHAMPTON AND LINCOLN

James Levitt of Stamford Baron, co. North't., blacksmith. Will dated 28 July 1681 and proved 3 Oct. 1681. Son John; son James (a minor); daughters Elizabeth, Mary, Dorothy, Penelope, Sarah; brother John Levitt; father-in-law Edward Billington. (Consistory Court of Peterborough.)

John Levitt of St. Martin's, Stamford Baron, co. Northton., gent. Will dated 9 Oct. 1681 and proved 9 May 1682. Wife Mary; sons John and Robert; daughter Frances; land in Deeping Fen, co. Lincoln. (P. C. C., 59 Cottle.)

John Levitt of Stamford, co. Lincoln. Will dated 2 June 1663 and proved at Lincoln 17 Aug. 1663. Wife Jane; sons John and James; John and James, sons of brother Robert Levitt. (Lincoln Wills, 1663, fo. 431.)

LEVETTS OF CAMBRIDGE

Frances Levet of Newton in the Isle of Ely, yeoman. Will dated 14 Feb. 1613. Wife Temperance; son John (a minor); daughter Anne. (P. C. C., 75 Lawe.)

William Levit of Caxton, co. Cambridge. Will dated 12 Dec. 1649 and proved 2 May 1650. Wife Rose; son John; daughter Mary; daughter Anne Cole. (Archdeaconry of Ely, Book 9.)

Robert Levit of Hoddenham, co. Cambridge, gent. Will 20 Oct. 1670. Wife Katherine; son William; daughter Anne Jenison, widow; daughter Alice Levit; land in Hoddenham and Witcham. (Archdeaconry of Ely, book 10, fo. 133.)

LEVETTS OF MIDDLESEX

John Levett of Whitechapel, co Middx., tallow chandler, exr. of will of Christopher Swayne of Yorkshire. (Chancery Proceedings, Charles I, Swayne *v.* Levett, Bundle S 12, No. 50.) In 1643 Sarah Levett, widow of John Levett, Jr., late a City captain in the Parliament's service and slain at Newbury, sued her father-in-law, John Levett, Sr., who replied that his son John had married Sarah without his father's knowledge, but in spite of this the father had lent him large sums and had taken him into his own business as a tallow chandler.

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